



THE TOWN OF  
**LOS ALTOS HILLS**  
*California*

**ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES COMMITTEE**

Regular Meeting Agenda

**Date:** July 2, 2020 at 6:30pm

**Location:** TELECONFERENCE SPECIAL NOTICE

*Pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20:*

1. Call to Order (roll call)

Attended: Srini Srinivasan (SrS), Jolie Wu (JW), Peter Evans (PE), Pat Lang (PL), Steve Schmidt (StS), Sasha Zbrozek (SZ), Michelle Wu (MW)

2. Approval of Minutes

Committee voted unanimously to approve Minutes of June Meeting of EIC

Committee voted unanimously to approve Minutes of May Meeting of EIC

StS clarified that George Tyson is the primary representative for LAH in SVCE. Courtenay is secondary.

3. Unfinished Business

**a. Home demolition fixture salvaging program proposal (April)**

April Anair had initiated the agenda item was not in attendance. Nevertheless, the Committee proceeded to discuss the issue and possible solutions.

**Problem statement:** Residents' ability to recycle materials has diminished at a time when the need for recycling capabilities has increased.

**Causes:**

Greenwaste has restricted the use of bins for recycling; more restrictive than Greenwaste is with Portola Valley, Woodside

Goodwill is closed due to the Pandemic

Residents may not be aware of solution alternatives

**Solutions proposed:**

1. Encourage the use of Garage Sale and Nextdoor
2. Develop a page in EIC Website : " Resources for getting rid of stuff "
3. Develop a section on EIC website for best practices in disposing material from homes
4. Consider a 'City Handyman' who can drive around offering to pick up and dispose of stuff
5. Promote Greenwaste program of twice a year Bulk Item pickup program
6. Talk to Greenwaste about additional resources for disposing recyclable material
7. PE to consider serving on City Manager's committee for review of Greenwaste contract

**b. LAH's Climate Action Plan - Greenhouse Gas inventory responsibility:**

**Update:** Subsequent to the June 2020 meeting, the sub-committee of StS, SrS and JW discussed the matter of resourcing the GHG inventory tracking with the City Manager and then with the

staff member. Neither meeting resulted in a commitment by City staff to take on the responsibility for resuming GHG tracking. Questions were raised about the relative importance of GHG tracking versus other priorities tracked by the City staff. City staff pushed back on EIC to assign volunteer resources to conduct ongoing tracking of GHG.

**Discussion:**

MW wanted to know if the minutes from the meeting where the City Council had adopted the Climate Action Plan had been tracked down, reviewed by the EIC; EIC confirmed that this was not successfully done.

In principle, EIC agreed that City Manager and Staff are responsible only for execution of the decisions made by City Council. In the matter of GHG tracking and reporting, City Manager and Staff will not be deciding whether it needs to be done.

**Action:**

MW will represent EIC's understanding to the City Manager and get everyone to a shared understanding of roles and responsibilities for GHG tracking.

SS to send request to include the topic for discussion at the upcoming Council Meeting as needed.

4. Old Business

a. **Undergrounding : Next steps for EIC**

**Background:**

Council member, George Tyson (GT) was appointed last year to lead the Undergrounding study. Motivation has changed now from aesthetics to safety because of fires. Initially GT considered a small project (focused around El Monte fire station due to high density of power lines in this area), but is now encouraged and convinced to explore full-scale investment and implementation. George currently has informal advisory help from StS and PE, but would like to have more people to help him with the study and project development.

Understanding costs and financing options: The smaller, IceBreaker project involves 500' undergrounding at El Monte Rd. GT will start design study. Longer term, big vision is currently being planned, involving aspects such as: Engineering design, Utility Tax to fund part (many surrounding cities have it), and Public support. GT revealed that there are Matching funds from PG&E of \$2M/year to tap into. PG&E is coming up with an alternate proposal. If UT is the source of funding, the undergrounding project will pass the 2/3rd vote requirement. As of today, newer residential areas are undergrounded.

**Discussion:**

GT has championed the project successfully and has won budget approval for (1) Initial funding for the Ice-breaker project and (2) "35% design" of town-wide project by professional engineers. In addition, GT has developed a timeline for the Undergrounding project. LAH has established a committee for Undergrounding project but formal meeting notes have not yet been published. EIC members PE and StS have been informally helping GT on this project. The most effective way for EIC to play a role in this project would be to formally be inducted into the project by GT with an advisory role.

Estimated costs have ranged from \$50 / foot to \$1200 /ft ; given the broad range, an ice-breaker project has been proposed to determine the right budgetary costs.

If Undergrounding is essential business, it can be funded from LAH's operating budget as well.

PE is collaborating with GT to review Rule 20 / Rue 28 and the implications for funding. MW advised caution during the collaboration to ensure compliance with Brown Act.

Timeline for completion of Undergrounding could be as long as 7-14 years.

Out of the box ideas brought up to be explored:

Can LAH have its own utility?

Can LAH buy and operate PG&E's system?

**Action:**

1. GT to be included as optional attendee for future EIC meetings
2. EIC to be formally inducted into advisory role on the project

**b. EIC Educational Series**

**Background:**

JW has initiated an education series to be offered virtually in the beginning and then potentially using the city's conference room facilities. Target audience is the city's residents of all ages and topics will be related to EIC's charter. JW presented the proposal to EIC and won their approval. Since then JW has presented the proposal to the Council and has received some feedback.

**Discussion:**

MW recommended that EIC should attempt one instance of the seminar at first and then do a checkback.

Youth Commission's participation has been invited. After consulting Sarah and PE's wife, it appears unlikely that the Youth Commission will participate given that the children are likely to have little time available.

Los Altos appears to have suffered the unintended consequence of public pushback on Reach Codes based on interpretations of what was presented in an education seminar. EIC has been cautioned to consider the impact while offering seminar topics.

**Action:**

Discuss potential topics to add to series  
JW will create a topic specific proposal

**Next EIC meeting:** August 6, 2020 Thursday

Adjournment